

2006 Labor Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony Program

November 16, 2006
2:30 pm

U.S. Department of Labor – Great Hall

Presentation and Retirement of Colors
Joint Services Color Guard
Military District of Washington

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening Remarks
John Flynn
Counselor to the Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Labor

Remarks
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Labor
United States Department of Labor

**Presentation and Induction of
Alfred E. Smith**
The Honorable Peter King
3rd District, New York
United States House of Representatives

**Presentation and Induction of
Charles R. Walgreen**
David Bernauer
Chairman
Walgreen Co.

Closing Remarks
The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Labor
United States Department of Labor

**THE LABOR HALL OF FAME
of the
U.S. Department of Labor
Established 1988**

The Labor Hall of Fame honors those Americans whose distinctive contributions to the field of labor have enhanced the quality of life of millions yesterday, today, and for generations to come.

Elevation to the Labor Hall of Fame is arrived at by a selection panel composed of the Counselor in the Office of the Secretary, the Solicitor of Labor, the Assistant Secretary for Policy and the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management. Honorees are chosen each year, and a formal induction ceremony is conducted at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C.

The Labor Hall of Fame is located in the the North Plaza of the U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The most recent honorees are represented by a kiosk containing a portrait, photos and memorabilia. The exhibit is open during regular working hours.



U.S. Department of Labor
www.dol.gov



18th Annual Induction
Ceremony

of the

Labor Hall of Fame

honoring

Alfred E. Smith

Charles R. Walgreen

November 16, 2006

U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, D.C.

Alfred E. Smith **(1873-1944)**

“All the ills of democracy can be cured by more democracy.”

– Alfred E. Smith

Smith was born to Alfred Emanuel Smith and Catherine Mulvihill and initially grew up in the multiethnic Lower East Side of Manhattan, on Oliver Street, New York City. His four grandparents were Irish, German, Italian, and English, but Smith identified with the Irish Catholic community and became its leading spokesman in the 1920s. On May 6, 1900, Alfred Smith married Catherine A. Dunn, with whom he had five children.

Smith's first political job was as a clerk in the office of the *Commissioner of Jurors* in 1895. In 1903 he was elected to the New York State Assembly. He served as vice chairman of the commission appointed to investigate factory conditions after a hundred workers died in the disastrous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911. Smith crusaded against dangerous and unhealthy workplace conditions and championed corrective legislation. In 1911 the Democrats obtained a majority of seats in the state Assembly, and Smith became chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. In 1912 he became the majority leader, and in 1913 he was elected as Speaker of the Assembly.

Smith was elected governor of New York in 1918. During his term, New York laws governing workers' compensation, women's pensions, and child and women's labor were strengthened with

the help of Frances Perkins, soon to be FDR's Labor Secretary, and ahead of many states. After the 1928 election, he became the president of Empire State, Inc., the corporation which built and operated the Empire State Building.

He died on October 4, 1944, at the age of 70, broken-hearted over the death of his wife from cancer five months earlier; he is interred at Calvary Cemetery, Queens, New York.

Charles R. Walgreen **(1873-1939)**

“We believe that honest goods can be sold to honest people by honest methods.”

– Charles R. Walgreen, Sr.

Charles Rudolph Walgreen was the founder and first president of Walgreen Co., a pharmacy chain which today employs nearly 200,000 workers, in more than 5,400 stores in 47 U.S. states and Puerto Rico. He was born on October 9, 1873, on a farm near Rio, Illinois. His parents were Swedish immigrants. Charles attended high school in Dixon, Illinois until the age of 16. He then moved on to the Dixon Business College and one year later entered the work force.

Walgreen moved to Chicago in 1893, and his life reached a turning point under the employ of a Mr. Valentine of Valentine's Drug Store in Chicago, Illinois. After hiring Walgreen as a clerk,

Valentine recognized the young man's hard work ethic, and encouraged him to take on more management duties. Valentine also encouraged him to study the pharmacy texts kept at the store in preparation for becoming a licensed pharmacist. Walgreen acquired his first store in 1901. In 1902, Walgreen married Myrtle Norton and began devoting his energies toward bettering his business.

The young entrepreneur's strategy for growth was two-fold. First, he emphasized customer service and friendliness combined with professionalism, a credo that separated Walgreen's drugstores from the numerous other outfits in the city. Secondly, he sought to innovate. An example of this was the prominent role of the soda fountain in Walgreen's stores, which at the time was America's equivalent of a modern fast-food restaurant. In 1920, one of Walgreen's employees invented the milkshake.

Walgreen also sought to maintain a healthy work environment for his employees. He achieved this by including opportunities for partnerships at every store, giving bonuses and stock offerings, and promoting from within company ranks. The company's turnover rate, then and now, remains among the lowest in the retail sector.

On December 9, 1939, at the age of 66, Charles Walgreen Sr. died of cancer. By this time, the board of the Walgreen Co. had already elected his son, Charles Jr., company president. Later, his grandson, Charles R. Walgreen III, headed the company for nearly three decades until his retirement as chairman in 1999. The founder's great-grandson, Kevin, is a senior vice president with Walgreens today.
